

## March 2014 Class Schedule

**September 2, 2014 6 p.m.-8 p.m.**

### **Fall Gardening for Color**

If you're like us and love the colors of fall, come learn how to add color to your fall landscape! Enjoy nonstop color all season long with these gardening suggestions and ideas! Join us to get the best fall gardening tips from a garden expert!

**September 4, 2014 6 p.m.-8 p.m.**

### **Drought Tolerant Landscape**

When people think of drought tolerant landscapes they usually think of desert plants, cactus, and rocks. Fortunately in North Texas, we have many more options than that, for example the heat-loving colorful Texas Lantana! Learn how to have a vibrant landscape while requiring less maintenance, saving water and keeping a thicker wallet!

**September 9, 2014 6 p.m.-8 p.m.**

### **Square-foot Gardening**

Square-foot gardening is great way to start a garden for beginners and experienced gardeners! Whether you live on acreage or just have a balcony, using the square foot gardening method is the perfect way to get your hands dirty and grow plants efficiently! Come learn how this method of gardening saves water, time, money, and work!

**September 11, 2014 6 p.m.-8 p.m.**

### **Creating Compost**

Learn how to use the scrap foods, coffee grounds, leaves and grass around your house to create your very own compost! Compost is simply the breakdown organic materials. Not only does compost replenish nutrients to your soil, but it also reduces your need for expensive chemical fertilizers, pesticides, and water. Composting is easy and doesn't smell when done correctly. Learn how to create your own black gold for the spring!

## How to Register for Classes

**Seating is limited! Register today!**

All classes are free but you must be a Mansfield resident to attend. Register for each class by 5 p.m. the day before the class to guarantee a seat and receive a door prize!

**Two ways to register for classes:**

**Email: [water@mansfield-tx.gov](mailto:water@mansfield-tx.gov)**

**Call: 817-477-2248**

**Classes are located at:**

**Mansfield Water Treatment Plant**

**707 Pleasant Ridge Ct.**

**Mansfield, TX 76063**

**(Behind Worley Middle School)**

If you need directions or have questions please contact the Water Utility Department at 817-477-2248.



# TEXAS SMARTSCAPE

## Class Schedule & Information



***“Give Water the Boot,  
Plant TEXAS Roots!”***

**For more details visit:**

**Texas SmartScape website:**

[www.txsmartscape.com](http://www.txsmartscape.com)

**City of Mansfield website:**

[www.mansfield-tx.gov](http://www.mansfield-tx.gov)



## How to SmartScape?

Texas SmartScape is a concept that helps you make the most of your yard, time, and money. It's as easy as 1, 2, 3.

**Plan:** SmartScaping begins by planning a garden that accommodates your existing soil, moisture conditions, and sun exposure, as well as how you use your yard. For example, during the planning stage you can take steps to reduce watering by grouping plants with similar water needs together. Or you may decrease mowing time by replacing turf grass with a different ground cover in areas that don't experience a lot of foot traffic.

**Plant:** SmartScaping then encourages the planting of native and adaptive perennials, shrubs, and trees. Because this vegetation is native to the area, it has evolved to thrive in the North Central Texas environment. This means:

- The soil naturally contains many of the nutrients these plants need.
- The hot and dry summer conditions do not overly stress these drought-tolerant plants.
- Many of these plants have their own defense mechanisms to fight off local diseases and pests.

**Care:** The qualities of native and adaptive plants significantly reduce the need for fertilizers, pesticides, and water—changing the way you care for your yard. This not only saves you time and money, but it also protects our streams and rivers.



*Texas SmartScape Garden*

## Why SmartScape?

A SmartScape yard is a beautiful yard. It's an array of beautiful and healthy flowers and trees that can be enjoyed all year, but SmartScaping offers many less obvious benefits for your family and the environment.



*"I thought I might see a few butterflies, but it was miraculous. Passersby actually stopped to watch the assortment of butterflies floating around my yard."*

- a SmartScape gardener

For example:

- It requires less water. This is an important fact in North Texas where droughts are a reality.
- It can reduce your water bill. During warm weather, 40 to 60 percent of your bill is a result of outdoor water use.
- It requires less fertilizer and pesticides. Fertilizer is most often applied in the spring and fall, when we receive significant rainfall. As a result, a high percentage of the fertilizer never reaches the targeted plants, but instead becomes storm water runoff that washes down our storm water drains and eventually enters our waterways. Pesticides often follow a similar path. Significant quantities of fertilizer and pesticides in our rivers and lakes can make them unsuitable for recreation and wildlife.
- It is less expensive to prevent storm water runoff pollution than to remove it. If concentrations of pesticides and fertilizers in runoff continue to increase, very costly options to treat runoff will be necessary and could result in higher local taxes.
- It invites native fauna to visit your garden. Your yard can become a tranquil setting to watch and learn about birds and butterflies

## Find out How to SmartScape Today!

Get a Forsythia bush or Snake Herb plant and start SmartScaping today. All you need is a little creativity, a shovel, and the Texas SmartScape™ information. Texas SmartScape is an interactive "how to" guide that walks you through the SmartScape concept. You will learn how to design and care for a SmartScape garden, but best of all you'll have searchable information on over 200 plants, shrubs, and trees that thrive in North Central Texas. Using the new SmartScape™ web site, you can search for plants that bloom in the fall or attract hummingbirds or have blue flowers.



*Snake Herb*

To access the free and enhanced Texas SmartScape™ information, **visit**  
**[www.txsmartscape.com](http://www.txsmartscape.com)**.

Texas SmartScape is a result of regional cooperation among many cities, counties, and others in North Texas through the NCTCOG Storm Water Management Program.